



Washington State Department of Agriculture ➔ Endangered Species Program Newsletter

## WSDA to hold state-initiated plan workshop August 4

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will hold a half-day workshop August 4 from 9 am to noon to discuss the Washington State-Initiated Plan to protect threatened and endangered species. The meeting will be held in Olympia in Room 175, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE.

The agenda includes:

- 1) Relationship between the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) regulations
- 2) Federal Endangered Species Protection Program presentation by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 3) WSDA Endangered Species Program discussion by the department
- 4) Grower perspective on ESA programs and activities



WSDA is offering this opportunity to discuss pesticide/ESA issues and is asking for input from the attendees to assist the department in formulating a state-initiated plan that will ensure both pesticide use and endangered species recovery continue in Washington State.

If you are planning on attending the workshop, please RSVP by July 28, 2003 by contacting Bridget Moran at (360) 902-1936 or e-mail [esp@agr.wa.gov](mailto:esp@agr.wa.gov).

For additional information about the Washington state-initiated plan, see the Feb. 7 and April 11 issues of [Pesticide ESA News](#). ➔

## Subcommittee reviews crop & pesticide use profiles

The Pesticide Advisory Board ad hoc committee on surface water monitoring met in Toppenish June 19 to review the process WSDA uses to create crop and pesticide use summaries. WSDA is developing these summaries to aid in the assessment of pesticide effects on threatened and endangered salmonids.

The subcommittee recommended that WSDA develop written standard operating procedures (SOP) for the crop and pesticide use summaries to ensure consistent and accurate data acquisition. WSDA proposed to have a draft of the SOP available for the committee to review at the next meeting.

WSDA discussed the process used to identify pesticides and explained how staff gather, verify and collate the crop and pesticide use summaries. The summaries describe the pesticides used on a specific crop as well as the pest, method, rate and interval of application.

WSDA plans to provide crop and pesticide use summaries to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as include the summaries as key components of the Washington state-initiated plan. ➔



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## PROGRAM CONTACTS

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## QUESTIONS?

For more information about the Endangered Species Program, visit our Web site at <http://www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm>

WSDA welcomes your input. Please send your comments and questions to the Endangered Species Program [esp@agr.wa.gov](mailto:esp@agr.wa.gov)

**Awareness**

**Action**

**Recovery**

## Crerar on panel to discuss ESA impacts on agriculture

WSDA natural resource policy assistant Linda Crerar joined a panel of experts June 25 at the EPA Regional Agriculture Sector meeting to discuss the impacts of the Endangered Species Act on agriculture in the Pacific Northwest. The regional meeting, held in Portland, provided WSDA with the opportunity to demonstrate the ESA challenges facing Washington state.



*ESA/Pesticides panel: Steve Landino, Linda Crerar, Kathleen Emmett and Adam Sharp. Sandy Halstead moderated the panel.*

Crerar acknowledged that EPA and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have begun the court-mandated ESA consultations. She noted, however, that more local input and stakeholder perspective is needed to ensure accurate, state-specific information is used in the consultation process.

Adam Sharp, EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxic Substances, Steve Landino, NMFS, and Kathleen Emmett, Department of Ecology, joined Crerar in the panel discussion. WSDA received support from the panel for its Endangered Species Program and foresight for protecting both pesticide use and salmonids. ➡

## Fish facts: How old are you?

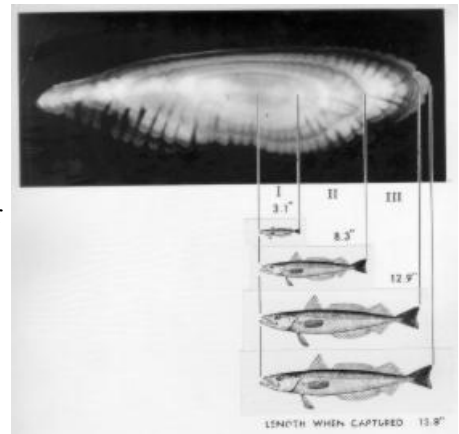
Scientists determine the age of salmonids by examining and counting the growth "rings" on scales. The rings correspond to seasonal changes in the environment and can be compared to the annual rings of tree trunks.



*Scale (Photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Service Center)*

A series of fine rings are laid down in scales for each year of life in summer. The rings grow faster in summer and have relatively wide separations. In winter, slower growth is indicated by narrow separations between rings. Each pair of rings indicates one year.

Because scale rings are sometimes influenced by other factors, scientists often analyze the small bones of the inner ear (otoliths) whose ring-like structures also indicate years of life.



*Otolith (Photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Service Center)*

The oldest known age (in completed years) of Pacific salmon and steelhead is: chinook – 7; sockeye – 7; silver – 4; chum – 6; pink – 2; and steelhead trout – 8.

*NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife contributed to this article.* ➡

*The chum salmon in the Pesticide/ESA News banner is a detail from a photograph by Al Grillo.* ➡